

REMARKS

In the amendments above, Claims 1 to 10 have been canceled in favor of newly added Claims 11 to 20. Support for new Claims 11 to 20 can be found in canceled Claims 1 to 10.

Claims 1-8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yang, U.S. Patent No. 5,307,267 ("Yang"). The Examiner maintains that as illustrated in Figures 1-3 and 6, and as outlined in Columns 3 and 4, Yang teaches the claimed invention; that Yang teaches a keyboard comprising a plurality of touch areas (keys), with each of the touch areas representing a symbol from a plurality of symbols; that the touch areas are arranged in at least one of a plurality of groups; that Yang also teaches touch areas (keys), wherein each of the groups include touch areas that are arranged in a distinctive shape that incorporates one or more of the symbols or part of symbols; that Column 3, lines 13-23, teaches the functional requirement for a user to enter a symbol by touching a part of the distinctive shape that is recognized with the symbol; that with respect to Claim 2, as outlined above, and as illustrated in Figures 1-4 and 6, Yang teaches touch areas that are keys; that with respect to Claims 3-7, as illustrated in Figures 1-3 and 6, and as illustrated in the tables within the text in Columns 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20, Yang teaches symbols that are Latin letters, Hebrew letters, Arabic letters, Cyrillic letters, and Greek letters; that although Yang does not specifically mention Latin, Hebrew, and Cyrillic letters, the symbols illustrated (in Figures 1-3, and 6, and as illustrated in the tables within the text in Columns 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20) are Latin, Hebrew, and Cyrillic letters; that with respect to Claim 8, as illustrated in Figure 4, the keys or touch areas constitute flat plates; and that with respect to Claim 10, Column 16, lines 37-44, teaches the keyboard for use in a pocket-size computer, electronic recording card, game machine, and telephone apparatus.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Fischer, U.S. Patent No. 4,310,753 ("Fischer"). The Examiner maintains

that Yang teaches all the claimed subject matter, except for flat plates provided with a groove to receive a pointer; that as illustrated in Figures 2-10, Fisher teaches flat plates with grooves as recited; and that to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to include the grooves of Fischer in the plates of Yang to ensure accurate placement of fingernails and other pointed operating instruments when operating the keyboard, as taught by Fischer in Column 1, line 56, to Column 2, line 22.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

Yang discloses a method of inputting characters and symbols on pattern element basis and a keyboard with over ten keys by means of which the characters and symbols are inputted. This input method and its keyboard can be used to input ASCII characters, Greek characters, Arabic characters, Japanese characters, and Chinese characters as well as any other characters or symbols whose structure can be express as a combination of pattern elements, without changing the marks tagged on the key faces.

Yang's keyboard allows the user to input characters by choosing a combination of simple symbols and pressing simultaneously on them. Yang suggests dealing with characters of the character set of any language by dividing each character to its simplest shapes and, based on that perception, inputting any desired charter by simultaneously choosing and pressing all of the symbols that make up that character.

Contrary to Yang's approach, and according to the invention, a keyboard is provided for inputting characters from a character set, where each touch area (or key) bears a symbol, which illustrates at least a portion of the graphical presentation of a character. The touch areas are arranged in groups, each group forming a collection of symbol parts, that partially share the same graphic form, while each touch area corresponds to a specific character and is aimed at solely inputting said specific character. This arrangement allows a user to easily identify and associate each touch area with a distinct character.

To make sure the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, a new set of claims has been provided. Former Claim 1 has been rephrased as new Claim 11 whereas the other dependent claims are essentially the same as the original ones. The phrase "symbols are" was replaced by "character set comprises", in Claims 12-17, and Claim 10 was rephrased in Claim 20 to properly recite the various devices, in Markush claim form.

Yang and Fischer do not disclose or suggest presenting keys whose shapes are parts of the actual shape of the character or symbol that is to be entered.


The arrangement of the keys and their grouping on the keyboard of the present invention is not merely a design choice. Rather, their shapes and groupings are important for the overall shape that they present to the user in order to help him find the desired key that he wishes to press in order to enter the desired character.

The arrangement of the keys and their shapes are directly related to the shapes of characters in the particular language of the keyboard.

The claims herein are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited and the rejections under §102(b) or 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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